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HOW TO RIDE

AND

SCHOOL A HORSE

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HOW TO RIDE

AND

SCHOOL A HORSE.

WITH A SYSTEM OF HORSE GYMNASTICS.

BY

EDWARD L. ANDERSON.

A New Edition, Revised and Corrected.

"Already a good horseman, he was now initiated into the arts of the *manège*, which, when carried to perfection, almost realise the fable of the Centaur, the guidance of the horse appearing to proceed from the rider's mere volition, rather than from the use of any external and apparent signal of motion."—WAVERLEY.

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INTRODUCTION.

It is to be regretted that, in this nation of horsemen, riding, as practised in the schools, should have fallen into disuse; for the *manège* is the foundation of horsemanship. This neglect is owing, in a great measure, to the prejudice that once prevailed against the formal seat and the unnecessary airs of *la haute-école.* But, in most countries of Europe, school-riding has advanced with the age, and it is now recognised, by the professors of the art, that each man has a seat peculiar to him-

self, and those movements only are practised that are necessary to give the rider control over his horse under all circumstances.

When we see that school-riding, in one form or another, is used in all armies, and indeed wherever the horse must be under command, it is hardly necessary to argue the importance of a knowledge of its laws by all who desire to ride well. And although in the extended gallop of the hunting-field, it is impossible to retain the equilibrium of the *manège*, the horse will be the more amenable for his schooling, and the rider will always have the resources of his art.

I think it is a mistake to place children of tender age upon horseback, for there is nothing to be gained in such a course that

will compensate for the risk of injuries they may receive. An active man may learn to ride well at any age; and a bold boy of fourteen, who comprehends the system upon which he is taught, will in six months become a better horseman than the lad who has been riding six years according to his own ideas. It is not given to all men to excel in riding: courage, activity, a perfect temper, and aptitude for the exercise, are requisite for the acquirement of the highest skill. But a knowledge of a proper method will give to every one comparative immunity from the dangers that attend horsemanship. A schooled horse, confiding in his master and obedient to the spur, is not apt to try his powers in rebellion; and when in hand and properly gathered he will

recover from a mistake that might otherwise prove disastrous.

In these papers I have endeavoured to present a system of riding and training by which the pupil may become his own master.

For many years I have been schooling horses for my recreation, and I have had advice and instruction from some of the most accomplished horsemen of our day. In particular, I owe my acknowledgments to Mr. Joseph Merklen, formerly one of the French Cavalry Service. From him I learned the method of horse gymnastics, which, together with much that will, I hope, be new to my readers, I now offer for their consideration.

HOW TO USE A HORSE.

The whip and the spur are necessary aids in the education of the horse, and in compelling his obedience after he has been trained. The first should be seldom used, the latter never, to inflict punishment. For instance, if a horse rears, the spurs must be employed to force the action of the hind-quarters, and so to drive him forward; but having brought about that result, they must not be thrust into him to punish him for rearing. The horse is to be taught that the spur is applied to make him bring certain forces into action, and when used with discretion he will respond to it; but unnecessary strokes with the spur will rouse his resentment, and he will stubbornly refuse to obey its

indications. It serves no good purpose to irritate a horse, as he will never yield while angry. A contest between horse and rider should always be avoided, for, in addition to the chances that the former will prove the victor, a high-spirited animal may be made incurably vicious, when by milder treatment he could be subdued without endangering his usefulness. A rebuke in a harsh tone of voice will generally suffice to correct a horse, and he will not know how to resent it. The best way to control the horse is through firmness and kindness, but timidity is worse than severity in inducing vice.

The young horse soon becomes tractable, and as long as his temper is unruffled he desires to do that which is

required of him. Until the spirit of rebellion is awakened, he is as anxious to avoid the perils of battle as his master should be. If upon an occasion he declines to perform some movement that is required of him, let his attention be turned to that which will please him, and his obedience in this will induce his obedience afterwards to the first demand. To give up to him after a battle will confirm his obstinacy, but he will soon forget his unnoticed defiance. Under proper treatment, he will in time yield to the will of his master without dreaming of resistance.

The story of Tarleton taming his savage steed with bloody spurs, and the vivid descriptions of the manner in which the Mexican breaks the spirit of the

mustang, may pass to adorn the pages of a romance, or to heighten the interest of a traveller's tale. But, aside from the cruelty and peril of such methods, there remains the fact that horses so *broken* submit for the time only, and the struggle is to be repeated more or less often. Except in those rare cases of horses naturally vicious, and they are lunatics, fear is the mastering passion of the horse. It is cowardice that drives him to desperate resistance against the sway of his master; the effort that is successful in ridding him of his tyrant suggests his favourite vice.

I do not, in these remarks, have reference to those tricks that a horse acquires through the inexperience or the timidity of a rider, for, like all cowards, the horse

loves to play the bully. As he will seldom take the liberty of practising these upon a resolute man, it is not necessary to point out to his victims what course to pursue.

If the horse is taught to calm his fears at the sound of the voice of man—if he is never ill-treated, in or out of the stable—if he does not perceive timidity upon the part of his masters, and if, with all these conditions, he is given plenty of air and exercise, he will never show vice.

THE SADDLE.

The tree, of the pattern known to the world as the English saddle, should be selected and covered to permit the rider, with his peculiarities of figure, taking an

erect position from his buttocks. It must be large enough. A saddle that is too short prohibits a proper seat, but the rider may be comfortable in a saddle that is larger than is absolutely required.

The panel should be stuffed to fit the horse when the saddle is placed as far forward as will admit of the free use of the shoulders.

The stirrups should be roomy, with a broad tread, and of medium weight. The holes of the leathers should be punched to correspond, and numbered. The leathers should be attached to the saddle by a spring-bar; the bar that works upon a hinge is the best.

BITS AND MARTINGALES.

There is no combination-bit that will supply the place of the "curb and snaffle" of the double bridle. The effects of both of these are required in schooling and in riding the horse. And although they are never to be used simultaneously, the action of one must often follow that of the other in a manner that precludes the substitution of a single bit.

The snaffle should be buckled to the under check-pieces of the bridle, so that it will lie up in the corners of the mouth without pressure.

The mouth-piece of the curb should be of proper width. It is to rest upon the bars of the mouth; for which reason the

port should be of a size to hold the tongue, but it must not be high enough to torture the horse. The check-pieces will be from one inch and a half, to one inch and three quarters in length, from the centre of the mouth-piece to the fastening of the curb-chain hook; the length of the branches will determine the power of the lever, and must depend upon the force required: they should be from four and one half to five inches long for horses that are to be bitted as I recommend. The curb-chain should lie in the groove of the chin, and must be loose enough to allow a play of at least fifteen degrees from the perpendicular before the lever action of the bit begins to operate.

When the bits have been fitted, and the

horse has become accustomed to them, they should not be shifted.

There is little to be said in favour of martingales. The martingale tends to keep the snaffle in place upon a young or a tender mouthed horse, who throws up his head to a heavy hand; but its intervention denies that delicate tension on the mouth that we are seeking; and it will not cure, although it may restrain, the habit that seems to demand its use. The standing martingale, buckled into the bit, is a cruel instrument that may throw the horse. The least objectionable of all the martingales is that attached to a nose-band. But this, to be of any service, confines the head of the horse too much for him to make the necessary efforts to recover from a mistake. None of these

contrivances will prevent a horse rearing, and the last named will answer all the purposes that the others may.

I believe that every horse is susceptible of being taught to carry his head in position, and I shall endeavour to show how this end may be brought about.

HOW TO RIDE

AND

SCHOOL A HORSE.

PART I.

HOW TO RIDE.

TO MOUNT.

Facing the near side of the horse, stand opposite his girth; take the reins in the *right* hand, and with it grasp the pommel of the saddle, shortening the reins until you feel the mouth of the horse.

Hold the stirrup with the left hand, and insert the left foot; seize a lock of

the mane in the left hand, close to the crest of the neck, turning the thumb uppermost.

Rise in the stirrup, aided by both hands, until the left leg is straightened; carry over the right leg, and sink into the saddle.

When the seat is obtained, release the holds upon the mane and pommel, and pass the reins into the left hand.

After the left hand has seized the mane the horse cannot prevent the rider reaching his seat; and the rider firmly establishes himself before he withdraws the support of either hand.

There is no difficulty, for one who is not infirm, to mount in this way, and the only objection that can be made to it, so far as I can see, is that by a "cow-kick"

the man standing at the girth may receive an injury. But this is a rare vice, and a horse that kicks is dangerous to approach, for mounting or for any other purpose; so that it is hardly worth while to abandon a system that is otherwise excellent, because it does not apply to a very small class of vicious brutes, that should not be used for saddle under any circumstances.

On the other hand, nearly every horse will paw with a fore-foot, if at all impatient, and he who stands in front of the shoulder of a horse is not secure from injury. Among the other disadvantages of the generally adopted method, I may mention the following:—

1. The rider, standing in front of the shoulder of the horse, may be

overset by a forward movement; and this danger is greatly increased after the foot is put into the stirrup.

2. The left hand, entangled and held in the hairs of the mane, cannot use the reins.
3. The drag upon the cantle of the saddle must, in all cases, disturb its position, and may cause it to turn.
4. The right arm fastened to the cantle of the saddle prevents the right leg passing over the back of the horse.
5. To pass the right leg over the horse the right arm must be removed, thus taking away the principal brace of the body at the most

critical time, and allowing the body, in case of any movement, to fall backwards towards the shoulder of the horse.

6. The absence of a reason for any one motion in the method.

THE SEAT.

Upon the seat depends the security of the rider, not only as regards his remaining upon the horse, but in permitting him to use that lightness and delicacy of touch that is required to manage and control the horse. It has often been said that this desired lightness of touch is a rare gift, wholly denied to strong men. But if a man have a seat

that is independent of any support from the reins, he may acquire a light touch upon the mouth of the horse as readily as he may make a fine stroke with a pen.

As I have said, each man has a seat peculiar to himself, and that will be his seat for all purposes, whether in the field, upon the road, or in the school.

It will be obtained in the following manner :—

After having reached the saddle, disengage the left foot from the stirrup. Then, bearing the weight of the body upon the buttocks, make the inner sides of the thighs, from the knees up, grasp the saddle. The body must be held erect, the shoulders thrown back, and the

chin drawn in; and the elbows should be carried close to the sides.

The legs, from the knee down, should hang without stiffness, and the feet will, without effort, find their proper place, parallel with the body of the horse.

The length of stirrup-leather will be found when the tread of the iron strikes the heel immediately above the junction of the sole. The toes will be raised and inserted in the stirrups as far as the balls of the feet.

The stability of the seat is dependent upon the *weight* of the body, the *balance* and the *grasp* of the thighs. The erect seat upon the breech, that we have described, permits the body to make, most readily, those motions that are

necessary for preserving the perpendicular application of the weight, and for keeping the balance. The strongest hold upon the saddle possible is with the inside of the thighs.

There should be no pressure upon the stirrups; for this would relieve the weight, disturb the balance, and force the grip of the thighs. It is no argument in favour of riding upon the stirrups, that the horsemen of the East carry their knees up to the pommel of the saddle, for the Mexicans, who are better riders, extend the leg to its full length. It is in spite of bad systems that these peoples who live on horseback become skilful in the management of their steeds. Because a circus performer standing upon one leg keeps his horse under circumstances that

would prevent a poor rider from keeping in his saddle, it does not follow that the proper way to ride is upon one leg.

The seat having been found and the stirrups having been adjusted, no changes should be made for the different circumstances under which the rider will be called upon to exercise his skill. It is bad art when the principles are not suited to every emergency; and the seat that has been found to be that in which the centre of gravity can best be preserved in the high airs of the *manège*, where the horse makes the most violent movements of the fore-hand and of the croup, should answer all requirements.

THE REINS.

The beginner will use the reins of the snaffle only. He will take a rein in the grasp of each hand, the loose end passing under and held by the thumb, at a length that will give him command of the mouth of the horse.

In teaching the horse the changes of direction, as is described in the chapter upon "Hands and Legs," one hand will hold the curb, the reins divided by the little finger and grasped by the thumb; while the snaffle-reins will be held above those of the curb, divided by the breadth of the other hand.

There are various ways prescribed for holding the reins in riding the trained

horses, but I prefer the following method :—

In the left hand : the curb-reins divided by the little finger; the snaffle-reins divided by the middle finger; the ends of both sets carried up through the hand and secured by the thumb, which should be uppermost and pointed to the ears of the horse. By bending the wrist to the right, so that the knuckles come uppermost, the head of the horse will be carried to the right and the change made in that direction. By bending the wrist to the left, so that the finger-nails come uppermost, the horse will be turned to the left. There should never be tension upon the two bits at the same time. The horse should be ridden upon the curb; the snaffle will be used to fix the height of

his head, and, occasionally, to take the place of the curb to freshen the mouth.

The right hand will be carried upon the loose ends of the reins to assist the left.

HORSE GYMNASTICS.

The following exercises will be found of great service in giving strength to the seat, in aiding the balance, in teaching the habit of regaining a lost position without disturbing the tension of the reins, and in giving ease and grace to all the motions of the rider.

When so indicated, these movements will be made from the position prescribed for "the seat."

Exercises for the Seat.

I.

In the seat, with the arm hanging motionless by his side, let the pupil take away one thigh from contact with the saddle and bring it back into its place, with the point of the knee turned in as much as possible, the movement being made by a rotation of the hip-joint. This should then be done with the other leg.

II.

From the seat, and the rest of the body in quiet, raise both knees to meet above the pommel of the saddle, and bring them back to the saddle, making the inner sides

of the thighs take as many points of contact as possible.

III.

In the seat, keeping the thighs close to the saddle, let the pupil lean back until his shoulders touch the rump of the horse; then let him quietly recover his erect position.

IV.

In the seat, keeping the buttocks in the saddle and the thighs in place, let the pupil lean forward and slightly to one side until one of his shoulders touches the crest of the horse. Then let him slowly recover his position.

V.

In the seat, let the body sway forward, to one side, to the rear, to the other side, and then into position; then reverse the movement.

VI.

Lose the seat to the right, and without aid from the hands bring the body back into the saddle by a quick turn of the buttocks; then make the movements to the other side. This should be practised at the walk, at the trot, and at the gallop.

For the Balance.

I.

In the seat, the arms hanging without stiffness, carry the right leg over the

pommel to the left side ; then carry both legs over to the right ; then come back to the seat by carrying the left leg to its place.

II.

In the seat, carry the right leg over the pommel to the left side ; then work the body upon the buttocks as a pivot until the face is to the rear. Carry the left leg over, then the right leg, and work the body upon the buttocks as a pivot until the face is to the front. Resume the seat by carrying the left leg over the pommel to its place ; then reverse the movement.

———

For the Legs and Feet.

I.

In the seat, keeping the knees fixed, bring the lower part of first the one leg and then the other, as high up on the side of the horse as is possible, without either touching the horse or moving the knee. This movement should be done at the walk, at the trot, and at the gallop, so that the rider may have perfect control of the action of the legs in directing the movements of the croup.

II.

In the seat, the legs hanging without stiffness and the rest of the body quiet, rotate, first the one foot and then the

other, from the ankle-joint, with an outward and then an inward movement. The improvement in this exercise may be measured by the facility with which the pupil can gain his stirrups by the action of the feet only.

To Mount.

Standing at the shoulder of the horse, facing the near side, with the left hand seize a lock of the mane close to the crest, the hairs passing down through the hand, the thumb uppermost.

With the right hand grasp the pommel of the saddle, the fingers under the tree, the thumb extended towards the ground.

Leave the ground with a spring and

take the weight of the body upon the arms until the fork is level with the withers of the horse, resting a moment in this position.

Carry the right leg over, and sink quietly into the saddle.

Release the holds upon the mane and the pommel.

To those who have never tried it, this movement appears to be difficult. It is, in fact, very easy, and should be accomplished after a few trials by any one who is active enough to undertake riding. It should be performed at the walk, at the trot, and at the gallop. At the gallop care must be taken not to carry the body over too much in putting the right leg across the horse, nor need the body be carried so high as when the horse is at

rest, nor is the momentary stop to be observed.

To Dismount.

Seize the mane and pommel as in mounting. Bear the weight upon the straightened arms as the right leg is brought over to the left side. Hold the body for a moment perpendicularly to the side of the horse, the whole weight being supported by the two arms. Drop gently to the ground at the shoulder of the horse. This may be done at the gallop, by avoiding the momentary rest and coming down prepared to take a few steps with the horse, after which the holds upon the mane and pommel should be released.

General Exercises.

I.

From the seat, grasping each side of the fore-part of the saddle, bear the weight of the body upon the extended arms, turning the balanced body first one way and then the other.

II.

From the seat, grasping each side of the fore-part of the saddle, throw the body forward upon the slightly bent arms towards the neck of the horse; and, throwing up the legs in rear, cross them, and come into the saddle faced to the rear.

III.

From this position, place the palms of the hands upon the rump of the horse, and, performing a movement similar to the above, come into the saddle faced to the front.

HANDS AND LEGS.

The horse is propelled by the hind-quarters, and the movements are directed by the fore-hand. The legs of the rider act upon the croup, and by their pressure bring forward those forces; the hand restrains the forces of the fore-hand, and collects and guides all. When the forces of the croup are brought for-

ward to such a point that they meet and balance the forces of the fore-hand, the horse is in equilibrium, and no movement can be generated until one or other of the forces predominate.

As the legs act upon the forces of the croup, and as the hand governs the forces of the fore-hand, it will be seen that this union and balance of the forces puts the immediate and distinct control of the mass within the power of the rider.

The forward movement of the horse will be measured by the effect of the forces of the croup to predominate, and the corresponding yielding of the forces of the fore-hand.

But if the force opposite the augmented force does not yield, then that unyielding part is the more firmly fixed

to the ground, as by an incumbent weight, and if action takes place it must either be in rearing or in kicking.

If the forces of the croup predominate, and the fore-hand does not yield to correspond, then the action of this latter part is hampered. But if, as the forces of the croup seek to advance the point of union, an advance is made by the fore-quarters, the equilibrium may still be approximately obtained. That is, if this equilibrium is to be maintained, the forward movement of the fore-hand will be permitted as the forces of the croup are brought forward.

If the speed is to be increased, the legs will act upon the croup, and the hand will give freedom to the fore-hand.

If it be desired to moderate the speed, the forces of the fore-hand will be brought back ; and when they are brought back to a point where they balance the forces of the croup, a halt is brought about. If the forces of the fore-hand are brought back beyond this point of balance, the mass must move back, or undue weight must fall upon and fix the croup.

It will be the object of the rider to maintain the approximate equilibrium in all the movements of the horse.

But to obtain the control of these forces, all the resistances, active or by the will of the horse, and passive or by the weight of the horse, must be overcome.

That is, the horse must be supplied in the fore-hand and in the croup, must

obey the legs, and be amenable to the bit. The method of supplying the croup, and of teaching obedience to the pressure of the legs, will be treated at length in the chapter upon "The Pirouettes." We shall now turn our attention to the forehand and to its seat of feeling, the mouth.

The horse must first be taught that he cannot pass beyond the limit put by the hand without bringing pain upon himself, but that so long as he is obedient to the bit he finds comfort. To this end the hand will firmly resist any attempts of the horse to go beyond the limit fixed, but it will make a concession whenever he yields his opposition. The next step will be to make him relax his jaw and bring his head into position, so

that there will be no opposition to the bit. To accomplish this, the rider will be mounted and the horse will be kept upon the ground. Taking the curb-reins in his left hand, the rider will make gentle vibrations of the right rein with the right hand until the horse gives the jaw. A word of encouragement will be given and the tension will be released. Then changing the curb-reins into the right hand, the same thing will be done with the left rein in the left hand. After the horse will yield to either side, he will be induced to give up the opposition of the jaw, and bring the head into position by the same vibratory motions of the two reins at equal length. If the horse hangs upon the bit, he will be induced to bring up his head and carry

his own weight by a few pulls upon the snaffle-bit, from below upwards. But there is never to be a steady tension upon the bit, the horse is to be kept in hand by a series of slight touches that are to be relaxed the moment the resistance ends. When there is a steady pull, no matter how light it may be, the equilibrium is destroyed.

By a pressure of the legs the horse will be made to bring his hind-legs in under him, a forward movement being prevented and lightness in front being secured by the means above recited. When these forces from the fore-hand and from the croup are gathered and balanced, the horse is in equilibrium, and is ready for any movement without further preparation.

After these lessons have been repeated at the halt until he desists from opposition, he will be put into the walk, the trot, and the gallop, the approximate equilibrium being at all times demanded. If he attempts to go beyond the bit he must be restrained, and lightness must be kept up by the gentle, intermittent tensions of the curb-reins. If he hangs back, the heels must keep the forces of the croup up to the point that is required by the desired speed.

It is through ignoring the fact that a horse's fore-hand may be lightened by the play of the bit, that induces some writers upon riding to adopt crude and improper means for producing the different movements depending upon that condition. A badly trained horse will

bear upon the bit of the heavy hand, and instead of becoming light in the front at its pressure upon the mouth, the fore-hand will be the heavier for this opposition. It is for such horses and such riders that some writers upon the art advocate that the head should be pulled to the left to lighten the right shoulder, when the rider wishes his horse to lead in the gallop with the right side. Now it is agreed on all hands that a horse's head should be turned in the direction that he goes. In the above instance the head of the horse is turned to the left, and he is to lead off with the right side. Then if his head is carried to the right to change direction to that side, the horse should, if he answers to his signals, change his leg and be false in his gallop. But when the heavy-

handed rider has on some occasion made his horse rear, he finds that when the horse is *forced* to yield to the hand he becomes light in front, and the theory we support is in that case proved.

We have seen that by overcoming the resistances of the fore-hand we can lighten that part *without violence*, and when we come to the lesson upon the gallop the same principles will be applied to make the horse lead with either leg. For if the fore-hand is made light by the proper action of the bit, that side will be made the lighter upon which the action is the more strongly defined; so that to make him lead off with the right leg we shall raise that side with the right rein, and the horse will move off with his head in the proper position.

The height at which the head of the horse will be carried must depend upon the configuration of the animal, and the action he takes; but if the horse yields his jaw to the bit, and carries his face perpendicular to the plane of movement, the light hand will permit him to carry his head at the elevation that is best suited to the circumstances. But if the horse through perverseness or awkwardness carries his head too high or too low, the rider must lower or raise the bridle-hand until the head is brought into the position in which the horse moves with the greatest ease and lightness. The snaffle-bit should be used to correct faults in the carriage of the head.

We will suppose that the horse has so far progressed in his education that he

may be put into the walk, and yet be so obedient to the bit that he retains the equilibrium as far as is possible. Keeping him at a steady walk, the rider will accustom him to bear the pressure of the legs by applying them, first one and then the other, as the horse raises the opposite fore-leg. This will serve to improve the action of the gait, as well as to bring him to bear the pressure of the legs without flinching. When he will answer the pressure of the legs and bare heels by bringing forward the forces of the croup, and will measure his speed by the freedom given him by the hand without forcing himself upon it, he will be accustomed to the spur until he bears the scratch of the rowel with the same complacency that he bore the attacks of the heels. This can

be brought about without trouble by quieting the horse by voice and hand after each application of the aid, which at first should be very light, to gradually increase in force. The spur should never be given with a shock, but the foot should be carried and the rowel quietly but quickly applied by lowering the toe. After the horse finds that the spur comes soon after the pressure of the leg, he will rarely require the application of the severer form of the aid, and the whole education of the horse will tend to make him quick and lively in his motions, and obedient to the slightest expression of his master's will.

The horse, in hand and gathered, will be put into the walk, and the rider will practise the change of direction to the

right. Taking the curb-reins in the left hand, he will hold the snaffle-reins divided by the width of his right hand. Upon arriving at the point where a new direction is to be taken, the rider will turn the head of the horse by the direct application of the right snaffle-rein, and when the horse turns into the new path the left hand will be carried to the right, so that the left curb-rein will press against the left side of the neck. The legs of the rider will give such aid in bringing up the croup in the new direction as the circumstances may require.

After the horse will turn readily to the demand of the snaffle-bit, he will be made to take the new direction with the unaided use of the curb, the left hand being carried to the right, so that the outside rein

presses upon the neck, and bends his head in the direction he is to move.

Carrying the curb-reins in the right hand and those of the snaffle in the left, the change of direction to the left will be made in a similar manner.

The horse will be accustomed to be brought to a stop from the walk by the rider raising the hand and leaning back in the seat, and gently pressing with the legs to bring under the forces of the croup.

The horse standing, and in equilibrium, the rider will induce him to bend his head and neck, first to one side and then to the other, by the vibratory motion of the direct curb-rein. Both legs will be kept close to the sides of the horse to keep him steady, the opposite leg being

rather closer to overcome resistance and to prevent a movement of the croup against it. The horse will not be permitted to carry back his head, at will, from the bent posture ; but the rider will bring it back into position by the rein opposed to that by which the movement was begun.

It only remains, for the present, that the horse should be taught to bend the croup, at the application of the heel, sufficiently to put him into position for the gallop. He will first be made to take a step with the hind-legs to the right by the application of the left leg, the right rein playing with the mouth to remove the opposition of the right shoulder. By inverse means the croup will be moved a step to the left. In all movements of the croup the legs should

be held close to the horse, so that the action produced by the one may be readily checked by the other.

THE WALK AND THE TROT.

It is not necessary, nor is it desirable, that the tight grip of the thighs should be maintained while at the walk. The gait is so smooth that the weight and the balance will serve to keep the rider in his seat, and the knees being in position the thighs may instantaneously take their hold in case of a sudden start of the horse. But this ease should never degenerate into negligence, and as a horse is more apt to stumble at a walk than at a quicker

gait, the rider must never permit his attention to be taken from his horse. The horse should be kept constantly in hand, particularly after any great exertion that has called upon his strength, for he is much less able to recover from a mistake when he is tired, and he feels the fatigue less when he is kept roused. In going down-hill he must have liberty enough to permit his body conforming to the slope of the ground, so that he may extend his step safely.

For the trot the horse must be kept level and light, between the application of the hand and legs. The speed will be restrained by the first or augmented by the latter, at the will of the rider, whose efforts should be so directed as to give a regularly-cadenced gait of equal action,

in the highest equilibrium possible. The height and brilliancy of movement in the trot may be governed by the application of first the one and then the other spur, supported by the rein of the same side, as the opposite fore-leg of the horse is raised to step off. In this way it may be developed into the Spanish trot of the *manège.*

When the increased action of the trot takes place *under* the horse, it is called the *passage;* but when the fore-hand is lightened and the action of the fore-legs is *out forward*, the movement is called the Spanish trot. In both cases the diagonal legs move together, and there is a momentary rest at each stride, produced by the pull of the rein on the side of the hind-leg that is in action.

In the trot the rider should sit erect, with the shoulders thrown back, and the thighs close to the saddle.

If the rider rises to the trot, the constant shifting of the weight will greatly interfere with the equilibrium of the mass; but it is not necessary that the horse should get out of hand or be permitted to bear upon the bit. The rider should take no support from the bit, but should hold his hand so that it will be independent of the motion he allows his body to make. To rise in the trot the rider will make use of the knees to secure the seat, and allow his body, slightly sustained by the stirrups, to be thrown up by the motion of the horse, letting his weight sink back into the saddle in time to take the next impetus of the gait. The

shoulders should be held easy, but in rest; and the legs should hang straight down from the knee, and must not be permitted to work along the sides of the horse.

THE GALLOP.

In the gallop, which is a succession of leaps, the rider will lean slightly back, so that the buttocks will be carried well under him, and hold the body without stiffness. The positions of the body must, however, always conform to the action of the horse, and to the direction in which he goes; and practice must show what, and how great, these changes should be. In the gallop the horse must be *true*, to

insure his balance and safe footing. To be true in the gallop, the fore and corresponding hind-leg will be in the lead of that side to which the horse is turning or moving. For instance, if it is the intention to turn or to move the horse at a gallop to the right, he must have the head and croup bent to the right, and must take the long strides of the gait with the fore and hind leg of that side. This will preserve his centre of gravity, and in case of a mistake he has his legs in under him to help him to a recovery. If the horse is galloping in a straight line, it makes no difference with which of his fore-legs he takes the long stride or lead, provided the hind-leg of that side corresponds. If a horse takes the long strides with the right fore-leg and the left hind-leg he is

disunited, and has not got his powers well in control. If in turning to the left he is leading with the right legs, he can with difficulty retain the centre of gravity, and is apt to fall at the slightest blunder. We say that a horse leads on that side when he makes the long strides with the legs of one or other side. But the fact is, the fore-leg of the other side leaves the ground before the fore-leg which makes the long stride does, and the same thing is true of the hind-legs. But the legs on the side to which he has been bent pass the others in their longer stride, and the horse is said to lead with them.

To put the horse into the gallop, leading with the off-leg, let the rider bring him into equilibrium, then lightening

the fore-hand, and particularly the right shoulder, with a play of the direct rein, let him press in the left heel. In consequence of these movements on his part, the horse will take the gallop with the legs on the right side making the larger strides; for the right shoulder is free to extend itself in answer to the propulsion of the forces from the croup, and the hind-quarters being bent around to the right, the hind-leg on that side must follow with a similar step. The croup of the horse, bending to the right at the application of the opposite spur, will make the longer stride with the hind-leg that is so advanced, and such a movement is required to preserve the centre of gravity under the conditions.

The horse having been put into the

gallop, he will be aligned upon the path he follows by means of the hand and legs. The trained horse under the skilled rider will take the gallop upon the right or upon the left leg without bending perceptibly; for so perfect will be the equilibrium and the control, that the measured use of the aids will inaugurate a movement that will not require correction.

LEAPING.

The pupil should first practise the standing leap, and upon a well-trained horse. The horse standing at the bar will be induced to rise, by transferring the forces of the fore-hand back, and by

the pressure of the legs he will be made to spring forwards.

As the horse rises the rider will bend slightly forward, giving the horse the reins. When the horse leaves the ground the rider should lean back, so that he may preserve his centre of gravity, and by bringing his buttocks well in under him receive the shock in the strongest possible seat. As the hind-legs of the horse reach the ground, the rider will resume his erect position. Any bearing upon the stirrups will disturb the seat, and may cause the rider to fall.

There must be no attempt on the part of the rider to lift the horse; and when the hand has played its part of convey-ing back the forces of the fore-quarters, it

must ease the tension of the reins until the fore-feet of the horse touch the ground, when he will feel the mouth to give the horse such support as he may need to recover the equilibrium.

In taking the flying leap the seat will be nearly the same as that for the gallop; the rider will not lean forward as in the standing leap, for the action of the horse will not require it, and if he swerves or refuses the rider should be sitting well back to avoid a fall. As the horse makes the exertion for the jump the rider will bring his breech well under, lean back as far as the effort the horse is about to make shall demand, and resume the position for the gallop when the horse alights, at the same moment collecting him for the same speed with which he

approached the leap, but taking care not to check him or harass his movements.

When the horse takes the flying leap he must have the fullest liberty of his head; the bit being used only to direct him to the obstacle, and its tension released before the horse rises in the leap. The legs will be carried in close to the sides of the horse to support him, but he should be neither spurred nor whipped at the jump, as it distracts his attention at a critical moment. If he requires it, the horse should be roused before he comes upon the ground where he is to decide upon his place for taking off, and from that time he should be left to himself until he receives the support of the bridle as his fore-feet touch the ground. The

trick of throwing up one arm, or of giving a cry of encouragement to the horse as he rises, may work mischief by causing him to swerve, but it is then too late to offer him aid in gathering for the leap.

The horse should not be ridden to a high leap at a speed that extends him too much. He should not be so flurried as he approaches a wide leap that he cannot use his instincts for safety. If a horse jumps in a slovenly manner he should be remanded to the school.

VICES, TRICKS, AND FAULTS.

The severity with which a horse has been punished for a fault is, usually, the

measure of the violence with which he will repeat it. It is this violence that makes the horse so dangerous in his rebellion, for until he loses his reason he will take care not to injure himself, and so in a measure protects his rider. Few young horses are dangerous in their resistances until they have met with cruel treatment. It is seldom that a colt in breaking will bolt with his rider; it is usually the old offender who is guilty of this most dangerous of vices. Although nearly every young horse will rear at the pressure of the bit, he will seldom rise to a dangerous height, and he soon ceases to offend in that way. A horse must be corrected and put right, but it is never necessary to resort to severe punishments. Fortunately the horse is an animal of one

idea, and when he has determined upon his line of opposition he is easily circumvented and humbled. If he refuses to turn to the right, he will be so intent upon opposing the right rein that he may be turned around to the left until he is confused, when he will very gladly go in any direction. If he declines to go forward, he is not prepared to resist a demand for a backward movement, and he will soon tire of that unusual mode and start forward at the first hint from his rider. But a horse properly broken and trained will not be guilty of such contumacy, and will not be apt to show the vices of which I am about to speak, but for which the rider must be prepared.

If a horse bolts the rider should not fatigue himself by taking a steady drag

upon the mouth. Leaning back, with the breech well under him, and bearing no weight in the stirrups, the rider should take a succession of pulls upon the bit, one following the other sufficiently near to obtain cumulative effect. When the horse appears to yield to the bit, advantage should be taken of the moment, to prevent his again extending himself, by increased exertions upon the part of the rider, whose power should be reserved, as far as possible, to seize this opportunity. I know of no way to prevent a horse bolting; by keeping his head up with the snaffle-rein the rider will have greater command of the horse, but the use of severe bits will not deter a confirmed bolter from indulging his vicious propensity.

If a horse rears the reins should be loosened, and if the rider require support he should seize the mane, without, however, letting the reins drop from his hands. The spurs should not be applied while the horse is rising, but as he comes down the legs of the rider should be closed to induce the horse to go forward. If the horse refuses to go forward, the rider will find the side of the mouth with which the horse is not prepared to resist, by drawing the reins from right to left, and holding the rein of that side low he will pull the horse around, aiding the hand by the application of the spur on that side. If when the horse rears he sinks upon his hind-quarters, the rider should endeavour to leave the horse by seizing the mane and throwing himself aside,

and although he may not be able to clear himself of the horse, he will, at least, avoid coming down under the saddle.

If a horse is shy at passing an object, he can generally be made to proceed by turning his head away, and passing him along with the spur that is opposite to the object, as in traversing. If he is a young horse, and has not been maltreated, he will usually face that which has caused his alarm if he is allowed to take as much room as the way offers. The rider should avoid taking notice of the horse's fright, as any nervousness on the part of the rider will confirm the horse in the opinion that there is danger. If a horse takes alarm on the road at things with which he is familiar, it is either through defective eyesight, or be-

cause he has found out that he can take liberties with his rider. A man of discretion will know when a horse should be whipped up to an object of which there is a pretence of fear, but the horse must never be struck after he has passed on.

I do not like a horse that has low action, for he must trip, and he is likely, sooner or later, to come down. A horse stumbles when, through weakness, weariness, or stiffness from age and work, he is not able to recover himself from a trip. He usually bears the evidence of his accident on his knees.

A horse that stumbles from weakness is not fit for saddle use. If the rider is unfortunate enough to find himself mounted upon a horse that gives indica-

tions of being insecure upon his feet, he should demand free and lively action, with rein and legs. The horse should not be allowed to become indolent, nor be permitted to hang upon the bit. On descending a hill the horse must have liberty of action, for if he steps too short he is liable to come down; and a horse that is checked has not sufficient freedom for his safety. It is after a long day's work that a weary horse may for the first time stumble, and it is a mistaken idea of kindness that induces the rider to let a horse take his head upon such an occasion. The horse misses the encouragement of the rein and the support of the leg, and is invited to fall. Besides, it is much more fatiguing for him to bear his burden, deprived of his usual aids, and

in drooping spirits. Finally, in case of a fall, either of a stumbling horse, or under any other circumstances, the rider should hold on to the rein until he is assured that his feet are free of the stirrups.

PART II.

HOW TO SCHOOL A HORSE.

THE EARLY EDUCATION OF THE HORSE.

In order that he may never chafe against restraint, the horse should never know perfect freedom. From the hour he is foaled he should be accustomed to the sight of man, and belief in man's power should increase with his knowledge. He must be treated with kindness; but indulgence will spoil his temper, and he

acquires a contempt for the authority that is tardily enforced.

At six months of age the colt should be broken to follow with the halter, and be made to submit at a time when his resistance cannot have such success as to encourage him in rebellion. At two years of age he should be made to bear the saddle without repugnance, and to know the effects of the bit. If he is intended for riding purposes he should never be put in a bitting-machine, as all contrivances of that kind teach him to bear upon the hand, a habit that is incompatible with perfect manners. But, from the time he is two years old, he should be lunged, at intervals that will insure his retaining that which is taught him, with the cavesson.

By the time he is ready to bear the weight of the rider he should be perfectly familiar with the stable, and should submit to all the manipulations of the groom. At three years of age, if he be a well-developed colt, he may be mounted by some one whom he well knows, and induced to go forward a few steps. In all of his previous education, and particularly at this juncture, he should be treated with firmness but great gentleness, and he should be encouraged by hand and voice whenever his conduct deserves approval.

If he has been treated as I advise, he will not be likely to show any restiveness on the occasion of his being mounted for the first time, and the trainer will perhaps never experience any trouble with

him. It is not improbable that upon the third or fourth day that he is mounted, he will, on being taken beyond his usual limits, show some disinclination to yield to the will of the rider, and refuse to go in a direction for which he has some dislike. No violence should be resorted to in such a case; but if he will not answer the bit and the pressure of the legs, he may be led by some one who should be at hand in these early lessons to assist the trainer.

The snaffle alone should be used at first, and the rider should hold his hand high or low, as the horse bears down or raises his head. He should be ridden in this bit until he readily answers to it, and the rider should teach him, as early as possible, to go forward at the pressure

of the legs. No whip should be carried in the early mounted lessons, and in the lunging on the cavesson the whip should never be used to cause pain.

If the colt is naturally heavy in the shoulders, he should be made to carry himself light by short pulls upon the snaffle, from below upwards. The active resistance of the mouth should be overcome by gentle vibrations of the bit.

When he will go quietly in the snaffle, and has been made familiar with the usual sights and sounds of the road, he may be put into the double-reined bridle. The snaffle will be used to regulate the height of the head, and to begin the changes of direction; the bit will be used to teach the horse to give the jaw and to

bring in the head, as I have before described.

These bittings are never to be abandoned, and they must be daily practised, so that the horse will yield to the first demand of the bit.

When the horse is obedient to the bit he should be made to collect his forces in equilibrium, and he is then prepared for schooling in those higher branches of his education that are to make him, what is so highly to be desired, a trained horse.

By firmness and gentleness the horse can, by means of the system I have advised, be readily made quiet to ride. If he becomes shy it will be because his vision is defective. A young horse, properly treated, will acquire so much confidence in his master that he will

face objects about which he has grave suspicions. Each time that he finds his terror groundless, his fear of strange objects will be lessened, and I have seen horses, trained in this way, that would shy at nothing when under the saddle.

THE PIROUETTES.

The precision with which the pirouettes are made will determine the grace and facility with which the horse will execute all movements.

Pirouettes on the Fore-Hand.

The horse, saddled and bridled, will be taken to some retired spot. The riding

school is, of course, the best place for these lessons, but any smooth ground will answer, where there is nothing to distract his attention.

It is intended that the horse shall carry his croup around his fore-hand, the outside fore-leg acting as the pivot in the movement. The trainer will stand at the shoulder of the horse, and, if the first movement is to be made to the right, on the near side of the horse.

With his left hand he will take both reins of the curb at about four inches from the branches of the bit. He will then induce the horse to give his jaw, and to bring his head into a perpendicular position, by drawing the reins in gentle vibrations towards the chest of the horse, yielding the hand whenever

the horse answers to the pressure, and repeating the operation whenever the horse shows a disposition to go out of hand. With the whip he will then tap the horse upon the rump until the hind-legs are brought well under the body. The horse will then be in a position to make a move in any direction without any further preparation.

The horse being thus collected, the trainer will give gentle taps of the whip upon his near flank, until the animal moves one step to the right, the fore-hand being held stationary by the bit in the left hand, and resistance of that part overcome by feeling the right side of the mouth. As soon as this one step to the right, by the hind-quarters, is taken, the taps of the whip must cease, and the

horse should be encouraged, so that he may know that his effort has met with approval.

This change of position will throw him out of line, his off fore-leg being too far in rear. By a tap of the whip upon the under side of the off fore-arm he will be brought straight, and the trainer should again show his satisfaction by a kind word or a touch of the hand. Let these proceedings be continued until the horse steps off promptly; but he should not, at first, take more than one step at a time, and must never be permitted to volunteer a movement. After each change of position he is to be put straight, and he will be kept collected by the hand and the whip.

The same means, right and left being

interchanged, will teach him to pass in the opposite direction.

These lessons should be repeated at intervals, so that they are not rendered irksome or fatiguing to the horse, until he will complete his circles, either way, without taking up the pivot or outside foot.

These pirouettes will now be made with the rider in the saddle; and if the work on foot has been faithfully performed, the horse will be well advanced in his education.

Bringing the horse into equilibrium, the rider will play with the right rein of the curb to destroy the resistances of the shoulder, and with his left leg will make the horse carry the croup one step to the right. The right leg of the rider will be

held close to the side of the horse, to limit the movement to one step, to prevent him moving backward, and to assist the off fore-leg in taking its place in the new position. Taking one step at a time, the horse will complete the movement about the near or outside fore-leg, which has been the pivot.

By interchanging *right* and *left*, and observing the same care, the reversed pirouette will be made to the left.

When the horse will make the circle by the one step and the stop, with ease and without resistance, he will be made to complete the pirouettes without the stop, step by step; his head carried in on the side of the approaching croup. That is, if the croup is passing to the right the head will be carried to the

right, to give an easy and graceful carriage to the horse in the movement.

Pirouettes on the Croup.

In these movements the fore-hand will go about the croup, the inner hind-leg being the pivot. To show the horse what is expected of him, a few lessons should be given, on foot, in the following manner :—The trainer will stand in front of the horse, and, taking a snaffle-rein in each hand, in order to direct the fore-hand and to fix the croup, he will lead the horse about, a step at a time, taking pains to keep the pivot-leg as stationary as is possible under such circumstances.

He will then mount the horse and put

him in equilibrium. With a snaffle-rein in each hand he will, if pirouetting to the left, draw the horse to the left with the rein of that side, fixing the croup with the snaffle in the right hand. The right leg will be kept close to the side of the horse to prevent the croup coming against it, and to keep that side of the horse up in its place in the movement if required. The fore-hand will be brought about in this way until the horse's position is reversed, and he stands facing the direction opposite to that from which he started. Then he will be put in line, the right leg of the rider being used to bring up the right side of the horse. By the assistance of the aids, right and left being exchanged, the horse will be practised in the movement to the right.

In the same way the horse will then be made to complete the circle, pivoting on the croup, to the right and to the left, the outside leg being brought up as the balance requires its support. After the horse will perform these pirouettes on the snaffle-bit, the curb will be used at the finish of the movement, and then the curb-bit, the reins carried in the hand to which the horse turns, will be used. Finally, the horse will be made to do the pirouettes to either side, with the curb-reins carried in the left hand. To make the pirouettes on the haunches neatly and quickly, the forces of the fore-hand will be well carried back, so that the horse will rise off the ground in making the face about. The hind-leg on the inside is to be the pivot, and the other hind-leg

will be brought up during the movement to give it the finish.

After the horse has been taught to traverse, and to make the changes in the gallop for which these lessons have prepared him, he will be ready to make the pirouettes upon the croup in action. To this end he will be ridden in circles, then in *voltes* or circles in which the croup follows an inner path and the forehand an outer path : the pirouette results when the horse will make the *volte* without moving his hind-legs away from the pivoting ground.

TRAVERSING.

If the reader has mastered all that has appeared in these pages to this point, he

should be able to make his horse perform everything that is possible to the animal. It only remains for me to point out the best manner for obtaining the best effects in the more important movements.

In traversing, or passing sideways to the right and to the left, the horse should be placed at such an angle, with the line upon which the movement is directed, the shoulders in advance of the croup, that his legs may move freely, and his carriage be light and unconfined. Suppose the horse is standing perpendicularly to the line of the movement, and it is intended to traverse to the right, the rider will make the croup pass one step to the left, which will bring him into the proper position for traversing in the opposite direction. The resistance of the

shoulders will be overcome by the right rein, and the left leg will cause the horse to step off to the right, the two aids demanding the position and the movement, the right leg being ready to assist in keeping the horse up in his place, and to prevent the croup coming too far to that side. He must be kept in equilibrium and at the proper angle to the line of march, or the movement will be awkward and uneven. He will be made to traverse, at a speed not faster than a walk, in direct lines and in circles, to the right and to the left, taking care that in the circles the body of the horse keeps the proper angle at every point in the circumferences; and that his head is bent in the direction he follows.

He may then be brought to perform

the traverse at the *passage*, which is the high step that is produced by restraining the advance of the horse, and at the same time demanding from him increased action and exertion. The horse being at the trot in a direct line, the rider will induce the action of the *passage* by the pressure of the legs, alternately as the horse raises the opposite fore-leg, and by restraining with the hand any increase of speed; then with the direct rein and opposite leg the horse will be made to traverse, the high step of the *passage* being retained in the movement by accentuating the pressure of the opposite spur as the horse raises the fore-leg on the side to which he is passing. The leg of the rider on the side to which the movement tends will be used to keep the

horse up to the line, and to prevent the croup going over too far. The result should be a regularly cadenced action, in which the horse dwells at each step, the effect of the increased pressure of the rider's leg being to keep the legs of the horse suspended for the moment. But the croup must not be driven over too far, and the equilibrium must be observed. In traversing at the *passage*, the weight of the horse is, at each cadence, sustained upon two legs diagonally opposed, while the other two are carried beyond them in the direction of the movement — the shoulders slightly in advance upon one path, the croup in simultaneous actions following another parallel path. At each step the horse leaves the ground, and is for the moment in the air.

In producing the action of the *passage* in the direct line, the *hand* and spur of the side of the moving hind-leg act in concert to induce the high action and the momentary rest; but in *traversing* the rein upon the side to which the horse moves must be used to lead him on the path, and both the increased action and the momentary rest must be caused by the opposite spur giving the impulse at each step of the leading fore-leg and its diagonal hind-leg, while the non-action of the other spur aids to give the effect of that momentary rest which in the straight line must be actually brought about by the rein acting against the spur.

The traverse in the gallop may be obtained by means similar to those

employed in traversing at the *passage*, the horse being put into the gallop on the direct line, and leading with the legs of the side on which the movement will be made. As the horse comes upon the ground where the traversing is to begin, he will be permitted to make one false step with the croup as he takes the position for the traverse, to be corrected at the second step in the movement. In the same way, when he is put into the direct line, he will be permitted to make one false step with the croup to preserve his balance, to be brought into the true gallop at the second step upon the new line.

CHANGES IN THE GALLOP.

It is agreed on all sides that the changes in the gallop are not only the most striking and important of all the movements, but that in them is also found the highest test of the skill of the rider. But hardly any two authorities have agreed upon the method by which this is to be taught, and few can be found who hold the same opinion as to the best manner of making the trained horse change in the gallop. I have never had any faith in the method so usually accepted, even by the highest authority, of teaching the horse to gallop by a false method, to afterwards substitute a better one in demanding his performance of that pace.

If the fore-hand of the horse is lightened by bringing back its forces, that side will be the lighter from which we demand the most; and to make the horse lead with the one side or the other is simply to make the hand act more upon the side from which we desire the highest action. If, then, we wish to gallop with the right side of the horse giving the extended strides, we should make upward play with the bit upon that side of his fore-hand, and bring his croup round with the pressure of the left leg. The horse will then lead off as desired, with his head in the proper position, and there will be nothing to correct.

Although the direct rein has been before this time used to teach the gallop,

it is for the purpose of pulling the shoulders in so that the horse, his croup being brought round by the opposite spur, will not be able to take the extended step with the outside leg. This accomplishes the object, but it gives cramped and ungraceful action. I believe that the theory I advance is original with me, and I know that it gives the best results, for it is the method that Baucher and other great authorities use after the horse has been taught by some ruder means.

To make a horse lead with a certain side, therefore, the direct rein will make upward play, and be supported by the opposing spur.

At first the horse will be made to gallop in the line, then in circles,

gradually diminishing in diameter, always leading with the leg of the side to which he is going. When the horse will answer to the aids, and will lead with either leg, as may be required, without hesitation or blundering, the rider will turn him from a circle to the right or the left, to one on the other hand, applying, quickly but without violence, the hand as the fore-feet begin a new cadence, the leg as soon as the fore-hand feels the effect of the bit. The rider will, of course, bend his body to conform to the movements of the horse, and this balance in the weights will assist in the change.

When this has been accomplished without destroying or interfering with the cadences of the gait, it will be a

mere matter of practice to make the changes at any finished step in the direct line.

TO STOP IN THE GALLOP.

While it is only in the gallop in equilibrium that the horse can be brought to a finished halt, yet the same means, in a form modified by the rider's appreciation of the circumstances, may be effectually used to make the horse draw up in the extended gallop.

The horse being in the best approximate equilibrium, the rider will bring him to a stop by leaning back and pressing in his legs as the hind-legs of the horse begin one cadence of the gait,

and raise the hand, and bear upon the bit as the fore-legs begin the next cadence. The result will be that the horse will stop without another step, for the heels bring in and the weight of the body fixes the hind-legs, and the hand restrains and brings back the forces of the fore-hand, and prevent the mass advancing. These applications of the aids must be made with celerity and precision, but without violence.

The halt in the gallop is of benefit in preparing the horse for the changes of lead in that gait, for the horse accustomed to the halt in the gallop the application of the aids in making the change of lead will produce the momentary rest that permits him to change his leg with smoothness and accuracy.

TO BACK.

In backing the horse the offices of the fore-hand and croup are interchanged; for now the impulsion comes from the fore-hand, and the heels restrain and direct the forces of the croup upon the course.

Standing at the head of the horse, the trainer will bring him into equilibrium, taking care that the shoulders and croup are in a line. Then with a tap of the whip upon the croup he will induce the beginning of a forward movement from that part by the raising of one of the hind-legs, but before the mass acquires the forward motion the horse will be made to carry the raised

hind-leg one step in rear, by a pressure upon the bit. He will then be collected and made to take one other step backwards in the same manner. The next day he may be made to take two consecutive steps; and he will be taught carefully and without haste until he will move back several steps and still retain his lightness.

The rider will then mount the horse, and, having brought him into equilibrium, will, by a pressure of the legs, induce the raising of one of the hind-legs, which with the balanced mass will be carried back one step by a pressure of the bit. The whole art of teaching the horse to back lies in these instructions; but the rider must proceed cautiously, so that the horse will acquire the movement

in an easy and light manner. Let him be satisfied with a few steps well done each day, until the horse acquires perfection in the movement. The legs will always be carried close to the sides of the horse to keep him straight, and to prevent the forces from yielding too much; the hand must influence the forces of the fore-hand only enough to produce the backward motion, without bringing them back so far as to destroy the equilibrium. When the rider wishes to stop the horse backing, he will increase the pressure of the legs and yield the hand in some cadence of the movement, and will start the horse forward in the walk without coming to a marked halt.

The horse may be made to go backwards with the actions of the trot or

the gallop, by the same means that are used to make him back in the motions of the walk.

WHEN LADIES RIDE.

All the instructions contained in these pages, except so far as regards those for gymnastics and for the seat, will apply to ladies, when the whip will take the place of the right leg of the man.

The whip should be strong and straight, and the horse will be trained to answer to its application in exactly the same way as to the pressure of the man's leg.

It is only necessary to say a few words about the seat. I have nothing

to suggest in a saddle by a good maker, beyond remarking that it must be made to fit the rider, and that, in addition to the double safety-stirrup, the leathers should hang from spring-bars in the tree, the bar inclining upwards from the front, so that the stirrup may not be detached in case the rider carries her left leg back, as many are in the habit of doing.

The lady should so sit upon the horse that her weight will fall perpendicularly to the back of the horse; her face directly to the front, her shoulders drawn back, and her elbows held to her sides. She will permit her body, from the hips upwards, to bend with the motions of the horse, in order that she may preserve her balance. The reins are to be held in the manner prescribed for men, the hand

in front of the body, and in a line with the elbow. The whip is to be carried in the right hand, with the point towards the ground. The horse should never be struck with the whip upon the head, neck, or shoulder. To apply the aid upon those parts will teach him to swerve, and render him nervous at the motions of the rider. In a lady's hand the whip simply takes the place of a spur for the right side.

The horns of the saddle, the superfluous one at the right being dispensed with, should be of such lengths and curvatures as will suit the rider.

The right leg will hold the upright horn close in the bend in the knee, by such a pressure as the action of the horse or other circumstances will dictate.

The left foot will be thrust into the stirrup to the ball of the foot, and the heel will, as a rule, be carried down; but when the heel is elevated, the upper part of the left knee should find support in the side-horn, and for that end the stirrup-leather will be given such a length as will permit this. By the grasp given by the elevation of the left knee from the stirrup and the embrace upon the upright horn by the right leg, the rider will have as strong a seat as her strength can afford; and with a proper balance she will not be likely to find a horse that will unseat her.

As a fall of the horse is attended with great perils to a lady rider, she should never be mounted upon an animal whose legs betray any weakness, or

whose knees give evidence of stumbling, or upon one that is not master of her weight. The lady must see that, in turning to the right or left, her horse leads on the side to which he bends, and she should carry her inside shoulder slightly back at the same time, so that the centre of gravity of the mass will be preserved. The leg will support the horse in turning to the right, the whip will give support in turning to the left.

The lady who desires to excel in horsemanship should, when an opportunity offers, witness the performance of some school-rider of her sex. A few public lessons from such mistresses of the art as Mademoiselle Guerra or Mademoiselle Elise *de Vienne* will be of very great advantage.

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